

PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

## FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AmEmbassy BAGHDAD

173

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

September 7, 1956

DATE

REF : Embassy Despatch 735, dated March 13, 1956 and Previous

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|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| For Dept.<br>Use Only | ACTION<br>NEA-4 | I<br>N<br>F<br>O | DEPT.<br>Rm/R-2 REP-2 DLI-6 E-4 ICA-10 GE-1 L-2 |
|                       | REC'D<br>9/22   |                  | OTHER<br>CIA-6 COM-10 ARMY-4, N-7 USIA-4        |

SUBJECT: Status of Iraqi-Iranian Frontier Talks

Foreign Office Acting Undersecretary Amin al-MUMAIYIZ yesterday told the reporting officer in confidence that the long mooted Iraqi-Iranian frontier talks remain very much in a preliminary sparring stage.

Mumaiyiz said that Iraqi Foreign Minister BASHAYAN had discussed the procedural aspects of the problem with Iranian Foreign Minister ARDALAN during the period of the Baghdad Pact Ministerial Council meeting in Tehran. Iraq, he explained, prefers to discuss the three principle aspects of the problem, viz (a) the Shatt al-Arab, (b) the water sharing of riparian streams, and (c) the northern frontier, separately and each in its turn. It feels, moreover, the water sharing of riparian streams should be given priority. 1/ The Iranian Government, on the other hand, wishes to discuss all three in a single package. Bashayan, according to the Foreign Office's file on the subject, had obtained Ardalan's verbal agreement at that time to accept the Iraqi-proposed procedure of taking up the several aspects of the problem separately.

Now, Mumaiyiz continued, the Iranians have again raised the matter of a joint Iraqi-Iranian Commission in a manner that seems to overlook the Bashayan-Ardalan procedural agreement. Under the circumstances, therefore, the Iraqi Foreign Office is insisting that any discussions of the substantive aspects of the frontier problem be deferred until such time as there is a clear understanding between

- 1/ The reporting officer has been told by the British Oriental Counselor that the reason for the Iraqi insistence that the water problem be given priority is that Foreign Office Undersecretary Yusif GAILANI owns land in the Mandele area which is affected by any Iranian damming of such riparian streams.

HFEilts:tjl

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Declassified and Approved For Release 2013/01/04 : CIA-RDP08C01297R000600010133-0

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the two parties as to the procedure to be followed. Mumaiyiz felt that the Bashayan-Ardalan agreement should be put into writing to prevent further misunderstanding. He had only a few days ago received a long communication on the subject from the Iranian Charge, but had not yet had the time to study it.

Sources should be protected.

For the Ambassador

*Hermann Frederick Eilts*  
Hermann Frederick Eilts  
Second Secretary of Embassy

Copies to:

London  
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